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TOWN OF VERNON

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Good morning Senator Schlossberg - Representative Caruso and GA&E Committee Members.

My name is Judith Beaudreau, I am the Registrar of Voters from Vernon. I want to thank you for raising these important bills. I have submitted written testimony with some language changes.

I would like to comment on:

SJR 5 – Resolution Proposing An Amendment To The State Constitution To Remove Restrictions On The Categories Of Citizens Who May Vote By Absentee Ballot.

I am very glad to see this finally on you agenda. I personally have been in favor of this happening since 1997. CT is the only state out of the 50 to have this process spelled out in their state constitution. We will never be able to do any new types of initiatives such as early voting – vote by mail – no accuse absentee voting - or any similar processes, as other states are doing, until this is taken out of our state constitution and placed in the statutes where it belongs. I think it is long over due that we offer our electors alternatives to the polling place voting that we currently offer. If the electors are interested enough in coming to vote, than we owe it to them to offer alternatives ways of casting their ballots. I look forward to the many program changes, than might come down the road after this has been enacted.

RHB- 5989 - An Act Concerning The Process For Issuance Of Absentee Ballots.

I am **opposed** to this bill as written. As one of the registrars who sat on the committee to draft the original statute, I am opposed in changing and getting rid of the current language that was just put into effect last year. I think that we have not given it enough time to be tested by all. I will tell you that as a registrar who used this process in the last state election, that it worked nicely. It was a little more work on our part but I felt confident that the electors had the advantage of obtaining their absentee ballots in a controlled process. I am totally convinced that no elector in my town was disenfranchised by the currant system. My office was able to assist more electors, and I have stats that prove that more electors voted by this process than in other state elections. I am suggesting that current statute **not** be changed at this time.

RHB- 6251 - An Act Authorizing Election Day Registration.

I am so in favor of this bill. It is so long over due. The time is now. We must design our own election day registration before the federal government does it for us. And I think that this may be the year that they will do this. By designing our own we can have the control of the process that we put into place. If we allow the federal government to force us into this, it will mean different laws for municipal and federal elections. Meaning that if it is a federal election than you as a person registering can have this privilege but if it is a municipal election than **No** you could not have this privilege. This is very confusing to the average person out there who just wants to cast a vote. They have very busy lives and we need to make it more accommodating to them.

We in the election business see only election things and sometimes can't understand why these people are not more accountable. But they do not live in our world. They lead different lives and yes, sometimes they do wake up on election day and really want to vote but are not registered. They come forward for whatever reason and we say "Oh thank you for attempting to try to vote **but no way can do** you missed our cut off date." Which they had no idea there was a cut off date. They do not eat, sleep and think elections as some of us do. After all this is our jobs.

I would like to suggest that this process be **done in the Registrars Of Voters office** by a ballot rather than at the polls. If everyone is so afraid of fraud than if controlled by the Registrars Of Voters in their offices, these applicants who are registering on election day can be processed by the state-wide data based computer system (ConnVerse) and their ballots could be kept separate from the presently registered electors and easier to track these potential electors for fraud.

They could register to vote – have the info searched on ConnVerse - get a ballot – fill out the ballot - place the ballot into a tabulator in a manner of maybe 5 to 10 minutes depending on the amount of potential applicants. It would make it easier for the potential electors and it would take the burden off of the election officials in their respective polling places, who currently have a lot of work to do.

With the current language in this bill - I would like to offer these minimal changes.

Line 77 present to the ~~checkers~~ **ASSISTANT REGISTRARS** the notice

Line 79 & 80 ~~checkers~~ **ASSISTANT REGISTRARS** shall add the name and address to the ~~official-check list~~ **SUPPLEMENTAL LIST**. Than adding new language that says **THE ASSISTANT REGISTRARS SHALL MARK IN FRONT OF THE ELECTORS NAME IN RED "EDR"**

Lines 133 – 141

section (2) be removed from the bill. There is no need for this, if these ballots are for former residents only. This may have been needed when it was open for anyone but with **EDR** there is no need for Presidential Ballots as previously done. The amount will be so minimal.

Line 209 Insert the letters "pf" **IN RED** in the margin

Line 225 The **MUNICIPAL** clerk

I again want to thank you for raising & considering these important bills.